

his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Le Grand was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1956, having served until 1978 as a navigator/bombardier for Strategic Air Command bombers. Le Grand was deployed to Vietnam during the war as the lead navigator for the AC-119 Stinger gunship, leading search and destroy operations on North Vietnamese positions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with 9 Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of subsequent awards, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

After retiring from the Air Force, Mr. Le Grand has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served on several boards, commissions, and committees, among these are as an officer for the Knights of Columbus, leadership positions within the Boy Scouts of America, and as a member of the Catholic Church Pastoral Council.

Mr. Le Grand's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Air Force and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

#### BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK D. LUCAS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2022*

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4521, the so-called "America COMPETES Act of 2022." And I regret the path the Democratic leadership has taken with bringing this bill to the floor.

Some will call this a "competitiveness package" or a "supply chain" bill. Others claim the bill is about countering the Chinese Communist Party. But the truth is that it is none of those things. If this 3,000-page bill seems to have no coherence or strategic purpose, that's because it doesn't. This package was tossed together by Democratic leadership with no Republican input, and from what I understand with very little coordination between the Committee chairs. The Speaker hijacked good bipartisan bills dealing with U.S. competitiveness and countering the malign influence of China to pass another Democratic wish list that will go nowhere in the Senate.

By combining competitiveness bills with partisan poison pills, H.R. 4521 undoes more than a year of bipartisan work by the House Science Committee to develop and pass comprehensive legislation to double investment in basic research. As Ranking Member of the Science Committee, I was proud to work with Chairwoman JOHNSON to produce good policy that will double our investment in basic science, support the most important emerging technologies, build our technical workforce, and protect our research from theft. The House Science Committee passed more than a dozen bills to scale-up America's research and development capabilities over the next decade, ensuring the Chinese Communist

Party does not achieve its goal of overtaking the U.S. in science and technology, giving them a dangerous economic and national security advantage.

At the center of our work is the National Science for the Future Act and the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, which both passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in June. When we passed those bills, I had high hopes that for once, Congress might be able to work together to get something done. The economic and national security threats from China grow every day, and the Chinese Communist Party has been clear that their target is to surpass the United States.

The Senate has passed their own bipartisan package, the U.S. innovation and Competition Act (USICA) in June. While there are many flaws in USICA, I believe that we had a good opportunity to find a consensus agreement through a formal House and Senate Conference.

I have been urging Democratic leadership to begin conferencing these bills with the Senate since the summer, to no avail. And now that House Democratic leadership has finally decided to act, and they have done so with no regard for all this bipartisan work.

Instead of focusing on strong consensus policies, this package is filled with poison pills with no bipartisan support. There was no need to make this partisan.

I believe that if given the opportunity we could have passed legislation that invests in American research, strengthens our supply chains, spurs private sector investment, ensures the domestic production of semiconductor chips, and confronts China's malign behavior. This bill is nothing more than a distraction. Now I fear that this week's exercise will make it more difficult to reach a bicameral, bipartisan deal on a bill.

We cannot afford to play politics while the Chinese Communist Party threatens our economic and national security. I urge my colleagues to come back to the table to negotiate strategic, bipartisan legislation that addresses this generational threat. I ask my colleagues to oppose this flawed, partisan package.

#### BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2022*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to address H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act of 2022, which the House is considering. I have worked closely with several committees on key parts of this legislation—including the creation of a new class of start-up visas to attract the next generation of immigrant entrepreneurs and the reauthorization of the National Science Foundation to supercharge our country's investments in cutting-edge research. However, I have concerns with another part of this bill—the inclusion of the "SHOP SAFE Act" in Section 80301.

The laudable intent behind the SHOP SAFE Act is to help combat the on line sale of counterfeit goods, which I certainly share. However, the SHOP SAFE Act as presently constructed has three flaws.

First, SHOP SAFE could raise the administrative burdens and transaction costs of many small businesses and small sellers. This could be especially disruptive for the sale of used goods and other secondary markets, and for artisanal and other non-mass market products that do not fit neatly into the big-brand templates that this bill would likely impose. As a result, consumers could also suffer as costs go up and sellers could go down in many of these markets.

Second, only the largest online marketplaces with the deepest pockets may be able to bear the full technological and economic burdens that SHOP SAFE would impose. As a result, the bill risks entrenching their dominance at the expense of nascent and future competitors.

Third, SHOP SAFE takes a "kitchen-sink" approach to combat counterfeit listings, imposing over a dozen sweeping requirements that platforms must implement to avoid crippling liability for third-party infringement. Yet no one has been able to explain which of these steps, if any, will really make a difference over the status quo in stemming the flow of counterfeits. Indeed, some online marketplaces already police their listings in many different ways, without the legal pressure imposed by this bill.

These concerns came up during the Judiciary Committee's markup of the SHOP SAFE Act last fall. Members, including several who voted to advance the bill, called for further work on the bill. Based on public discussion at the markup, it was expected a committee-driven process to make changes to the SHOP SAFE Act would happen before it moved forward. Regrettably, given that the ordinary legislative process towards the floor did not occur, we now find SHOP SAFE has been inserted without improvements into this much larger legislation.

There is another approach included in the America COMPETES Act, in Section 20213, the INFORM Consumers Act. This legislation would boost enforcement efforts through regulation by requiring on line marketplaces to verify the identity of high-volume sellers, while requiring the disclosure of basic information about seller identity to consumers. Some of these requirements overlap with those imposed in the SHOP SAFE Act.

As such, the America COMPETES Act contains two visions of how to make sure on line marketplaces are safe. It is my hope that a targeted approach, like the INFORM Consumers Act, will help bring forth a sensible resolution to this issue as the America COMPETES Act moves to a conference committee.

AUBREY BRUCE STACY

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas-24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Aubrey Bruce Stacy, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army, of Colleyville, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Stacy was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in 1966 and spent over 20 years as an infantry officer before retiring in 1989. During his time in service, he was deployed to Vietnam, where in 1967 his platoon was ambushed by the Viet Cong. Stacy successfully led his men in a charge on the enemy's well-fortified position, and in another firefight took point position to maneuver his platoon to safety out of the kill zone. In 1969, Stacy managed to move several of his wounded troops from the assault area while under attack from the Vietnamese despite being wounded himself. Stacy's actions during the war earned him the Silver Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster denoting a second award, the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster denoting a second award, the Bronze Star with V device denoting valorous actions, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters denoting subsequent awards, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal.

After retiring from the Army, Mr. Stacy has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served as President of the Colleyville Rotary Club, the Board of Directors of the Fort Worth Air Power Council, and a permanent member of the 82nd Airborne Association.

Mr. Stacy's career is marked with heroism and consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOEY THORINGTON

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Fire Chief Joey Thorington of the Dearborn Fire Department. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Deputy Fire Chief Thorington is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's School of Fire, Staff and Command and the National Fire Academy and holds a bachelor's in Community Development focusing on Public Administration and a master's in Technology Studies, focusing on Public Safety and Emergency Management. A trusted member of the Dearborn Fire Department, he began his career as a firefighter protecting our natural wonders at the Manistee National Forest, and later worked in the White Cloud and Norton Shores fire departments. He began as a Firefighter I in Dearborn on April 28th, 1998. He rose to level of Firefighter II in December 2003. In 2006, he was promoted to Fire Engineer and after excelling in that role he was promoted to Fire Apparatus Supervisor Assistant in 2010 and then Lieutenant in 2012. On December 16, 2013, he became Deputy Fire Chief.

Deputy Fire Chief Thorington is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations for spectacular service to his community, including the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation, the Fire Chief Life Sav-

ing Award, the Gino Polidori Community Service Award, the Outstanding Officer Award, the Vaccination Center Award, and the Meritorious Service Award. He served as President of the Dearborn Firefighters Association IAFF Local 412 from 2011 to 2013. Hard working and one of the biggest University of Michigan fans, Deputy Fire Chief Thorington has left his mark on the Dearborn Fire Department by setting the example for public service among his peers. When he is not saving lives in Dearborn, he works as Organization Administrator at the Legacy Center in Brighton and has volunteered to coach youth softball and baseball. Deputy Fire Chief Thorington retired on April 29, 2022 after serving over two decades with the Dearborn Fire Department. He resides in Pinckney, Michigan with his family, including his wife Jean and children Allan and Cece.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deputy Fire Chief Joey Thorington for a career of exemplary service to the Dearborn Fire Department. I join with Deputy Fire Chief Thorington's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service in protecting our community and thank him for his role in serving the people of the City of Dearborn for the past two decades.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ETHEL B. TOY GORDON

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, Ethel B. Toy Gordon.

Ethel was born February 11, 1925, in Holmes County to Daniel and Leola Brown Toy. Ethel, at the age of 96, was called to her heavenly resting place on Wednesday, January 28, 2022, in her home of Greenwood, MS. At an early age she professed her faith in Jesus Christ. Ethel joined Meeks AME Church in Cruger, MS.

Ethel was influenced by her family to be a loving and caring woman. She always gave her time to others. Ethel married James Gordon in 1944, to that union 13 children were born. She later joined Gordon Chapel MB Church until moving to Greenwood, MS.

In 2018, Ethel joined Providence MB Church until she passed away. She believed in family, and she always shared her childhood stories. It was never a dull moment and always great laughs and good meals. Ethel wanted everyone to love each other because love was one of the many morals that were instilled in her.

Ethel was a God-fearing woman. One of her favorite sayings was "If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I wouldn't be nothing nor would I have nothing." She was a blessed woman of God, who was full of life and joy. After the sudden passing of her husband, she was left with ten children to raise. By the Grace of God, they never needed nor wanted for anything. She was a woman to be admired and praised. Ethel B. received everything she deserved until her departure.

Ethel B. Toy Gordon was preceded in death by her loving parents: Daniel and Leola Toy, her husband James Gordon, brothers

Louis Toy, Jonas Toy, three sisters Dorothy Toy, Mattie Toy Martin, Viola Toy Montgomery, two sons Arthur Gordon and Eddie Gordon, two daughters Charlene Cooper and Trufilia Hayes, one grandson Billy Gordon. Her beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of her family and friends. On today she leaves loving memories to the 13 children, 8 daughters, 5 sons, 1 God son, 32 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, 8 great great grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Mrs. Ethel B. Toy Gordon.

#### HAROLD CULVER

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Harold Culver, Sergeant, United States Army, of Bedford, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Culver enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968, serving as a communications specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. On May 5, 1968, a Vietnamese 122mm rocket was launched at his position, wounding him. His decorations include the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Culver's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING FEDERAL AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act, which would require an act of Congress before the headquarters for any federal entity located in the National Capital Region (NCR) on today's date may be moved out of the NCR. This bill is cosponsored by Representatives ANTHONY BROWN, GWEN MOORE, JAMIE RASKIN and DAVID TRONE.

The Trump administration moved the headquarters of agencies out of the NCR to the detriment of employees, their families and the work of these agencies. Employees who work in agency headquarters fulfill the indispensable role of keeping Congress and the president informed of agency activities. Congress cannot do its work to write laws and engage in vital oversight without the unvarnished facts that federal agencies provide. Two years after